



LUMEN CHRISTI
CATHOLIC PARISH

Share the GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

12 JULY 2026

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME , A

Liturgy schedule in our parish

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL

36 Harbour Street, Wollongong

Monday: Mass: 7am
 Tuesday: Mass: 7am
 Wednesday: Mass: 7am
 Confessions: 11:30am
 Mass: 12.10pm
 Thursday: Mass: 7am
 Friday: Mass: 7am
 Adoration: 11:30am
 Confessions: 11:30am
 Mass: 12.10pm
 Saturday: Confessions: 11am—12pm
 Sunday: Mass: 7am, 10.30am & 5pm

ST JOHN VIANNEY, CO-CATHEDRAL

1 Cabbage Tree Lane, Fairy Meadow

Tuesday: Mass: 9.30am
 Sunday: Mass: 8.30am, 4.30pm (Vietnamese)

MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH,

47 Balmoral Road, Balgownie

Sunday: Mass: 10am
 Children's Liturgy (3rd Sunday)

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

119 Gipps Road, Gwynneville

Saturday: Mass: 5.30pm
 Thursday: Mass: 9.30am
 Sunday: Mass: 9am



SUPPORT
OUR PARISH

Parish Centre

PARISH OFFICE

36 Harbour St, (P.O. Box 874)
Wollongong NSW 2500

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 8.30am —2.00pm
(Closed for Lunch 12pm—12.30pm)

CONTACT US

02 4211 0500

wollongong@dow.org.au

lumenchristi.org.au

linktr.ee/lumenchristiparish



MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE...

Jennifer Lemme, Assunta Rae, Philomena Carvalho, Maria Camilleri, Angelina Spiteri, Antonia Fenech, Emanuel, Antonia Buhagiar, Vitaniello Di Giorgio, Julie Virdun, Paulina Ascensao, Vicenta Ramos, Joao Benardino.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR SICK PARISHIONERS...**

Judy Mason, Maureen Harrison, Lorraine Cook, Steven Nolan, Duc Trong Nguyen, Jacek McLaurin, Angela Mosley, Brian Mattock, Jim Lyon, Teresa George, Chiara Sirianni, Joyce Milan, Noel Meddows, Dianne Hukins, Matthew Johnson, Pat Carr, John Gauci, Joseph Scalia, Liesl Caiba.

"Every person we meet is an opportunity to reveal the mercy and love of God."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We show our respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Country, Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.



OUR

Sacraments

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEB PORTAL



Welcome to LUMEN CHRISTI PARISH

Parish Calendar

- Wed, 15 Jul: Fr John Rigney (1838)
- Wed, 15 Jul: Baptism Class, SFX 7pm
- Sun, 19 Jul: Children's Liturgy 10am, MDB
- Mon, 20 Jul: Term 3 resumes
- Sun, 02 Aug: Catechist drive weekend 2025
- Sun, 02 Aug: Hospitality weekend
- Mon, 03 Aug: Fairy Meadow CWL Meeting, MDB 2pm
- Tue, 04 Aug: Feast of St John Vianney, Mass GSFM School 9.30am
- Tue, 04 Aug: Finance Council Meeting, Rigney Room 5pm
- Wed, 05 Aug: Anniversary of the Dedication of Co-Cathedral (2011)

St Carlo Acutis Pilgrimage Coming to Lumen Christi Parish

Lumen Christi Parish is honoured to welcome the St Carlo Acutis Pilgrimage to St Francis Xavier Cathedral from Friday 18 September to Sunday 20 September.

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Brian Mascord on Friday 18 September at 12.10pm at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, during which the relic of St Carlo Acutis will be present for veneration.

Throughout the weekend, the relic will be available for veneration at all weekend Masses across our parish, providing parishioners with a unique opportunity for prayer and reflection as we prepare for the Eucharistic Congress 2028.



A special celebration for our young people will take place at the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 20 September. During the Mass, all teenagers are warmly invited to come forward to receive a special blessing. Following the blessing, each teenager will receive a blessed rosary bead as a reminder of God's love, the intercession of St Carlo Acutis, and their call to holiness. All parishioners are warmly invited to participate in this special occasion. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray before the relic of one of the Church's newest saints, whose love for the Eucharist continues to inspire people throughout the world.

"The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven." — St Carlo Acutis

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Enrolments are now open for the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Sacramental Program. To enrol your child and view the program information, please visit: lumenchristi.org.au/sacramental

Renewal of St Francis Xavier Cathedral

Help preserve St Francis Xavier Cathedral for future generations. Exterior restoration works commence later this year, ensuring our Cathedral continues to be a place of faith, worship and pilgrimage for generations to come.

To help with your donation today visit: sfx.org.au/give

\$36,580 raised

\$760,000 goal



BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

Most Reverend Brian G Mascord,
Diocesan Bishop

PARISH STAFF

Very Reverend Bernard L Gordon,
Vicar General, Dean of the Cathedral
& Parish Priest

Reverend Cang Tran,
Assistant Priest

Kevin Galea,
General Manager

Leanne Burlin,
Parish Office Coordinator

Patricia Di Leva,
Administration Assistant

WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL

Emergency Calls: 0475 815 506

PARISH COUNCILS

Kathy Uroda,
Chair of the Pastoral Council

Vicky Davidson,
Chair of the Finance Council

PARISH SCHOOLS

Amy Sammut, Principal
St Brigid's Gwynneville

Pauline Chrostowski, Principal
Good Samaritan Fairy Meadow

PARISH EFT BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

CHURCH ACCOUNT:
DONATIONS & PLANNED GIVING
BSB: 066 711 Account: 008056
Account Name: LC Parish

PRESBYTERY ACCOUNT:
FOR THE CLERGY
BSB: 066 711 Account: 002286
Account Name: LC Presbytery

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Wollongong Public/Private
Phone: 0475 815 506

Altar Server Formation

Lumen Christi Parish is inviting young people from Year 4 and above to become Altar Servers. Sessions will be held from 9:30am to 10:30am at St Francis Xavier Cathedral.

Session 1: Saturday 1st August 2026

Session 2: Saturday 8th August 2026

Register at: lumenchristi.org.au/training

Volunteers Needed – St Brigid's

We are seeking more Adult Altar Servers, Readers and Welcomers for the 9.00am Sunday Mass at St Brigid's Church, Gwynneville. If you regularly attend this Mass and would like to serve our parish, please contact the Office.

Children's Liturgy – Sunday 19 July

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held on Sunday, 19 July during the 10.00am Mass at Mater Dolorosa Church, Balgownie. To register, visit lumenchristi.org.au/cl.

Why Do We Receive a Blessing?

A blessing is one of the Church's oldest and most beautiful prayers. When we receive a blessing, we open ourselves to God's grace and ask Him to strengthen, guide and protect us in our daily lives.

Throughout Scripture, God blesses His people. Jesus Himself blessed children, His disciples and those He encountered, showing that God's blessings are a sign of His love and His desire to draw us closer to Him.

A blessing does not replace the Sacraments, but it is a sacramental—a sacred sign instituted by the Church that prepares us to receive God's grace and encourages us to live holy lives.

When we receive a blessing, we are asking God to:

- *strengthen our faith;*
- *guide us in making good and holy choices;*
- *protect us in times of difficulty;*
- *help us grow in love of God and neighbour; and*
- *inspire us to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Receiving a blessing is also an act of humility. It reminds us that we depend on God and that everything we have and everything we do is entrusted to His loving care.

As Catholics, we receive blessings throughout our lives—in our homes, before journeys, at the beginning of a new school year, during times of illness, before marriage, and at the end of every Mass when we are sent forth to live the Gospel.

Every blessing has a purpose: not only to receive God's grace for ourselves, but to become a blessing to others through our words, actions and witness of faith.



Cathedral Renewal Update

Planning and preparations are continuing to ensure that all safety, heritage and project requirements are completed correctly before works commence in September. The Cathedral will remain open throughout the project wherever possible and will only be closed if required for the safety of parishioners, visitors or contractors. Project information signage has now been installed on Crown Street and Harbour Street to keep the community informed. If you are able to support this important restoration, we invite you to take a red appeal flyer, available in each of our churches. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps preserve our Cathedral for future generations. Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement and generous support.

Parish Pastoral Council

We warmly welcome two new members to the Lumen Christi Parish Pastoral Council. We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Lauren White** and **Kerrie Guillaume** to the Parish Pastoral Council. Lauren and Kerrie bring a deep love for our parish, active involvement in parish life, and a genuine desire to help strengthen our mission of proclaiming the Gospel and building a welcoming community. Please keep Lauren and Kerrie in your prayers as they begin this important ministry of leadership and service. May the Holy Spirit guide them with wisdom, faith and generosity as we continue to "Welcome one another, as Christ has welcomed you." (Romans 15:7).

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

Thank you to everyone who generously supported the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal across Lumen Christi Parish. Your kindness and generosity will make a real difference to individuals and families in our local community who are experiencing hardship this winter.

Wollongong Conference: \$44,022.00

Fairy Meadow Conference: \$4,000.00

Gwynneville Conference: \$3,457.20

Total raised across Lumen Christi Parish: \$51,479.20

On behalf of the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society, thank you for your compassionate support. May God bless you for your generosity and care for those most in need.

Catechist Meeting

All Catechists are invited to attend the next Meeting in the Mgr John Rigney Room on 23 July at 11am. Please confirm your attendance with Patricia Calabro by email: patricia.calabro@dow.org.au

THIS WEEK'S *Readings & Commentary*

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate

them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Creation Set Free

Here is Jesus telling another story about nature, in this case about soil good enough to bear a crop. Is he just a keen observer of the farmers of his time? No.

Throughout the Gospels there is a harmony between Jesus and the natural creation of a profound kind.

But St Paul intuited that link at a profound level in the case of the Risen Lord. This led him to make the most amazing claim that:

'The creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.'

We, and the whole cosmos, share the legacy of a common destiny brought about by the powerful victory of Christ over the final instance of decay, destruction and every type of death.

We could pause a moment to pray with the angels as we do at every Mass: 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.'

The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). Music and liturgical texts are reproduced and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense A-705872. All rights reserved.

